GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1270
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002
USE OF MOBILE PHONES IN TIHAR JAIL
V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that high profile criminals are operating from inside the prisons in different States including Tihar Jail of Delhi by using mobile phones with the help of Jail employees;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ordered any inquiry into the matter;

(c) whether the Government are taking or propose to take strict action against those jail employees and telecom companies who provide mobile phones to criminals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to overhaul the system of jails in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI)

(a) to (e): `Prisons` is a State subject as per entry 4 to the seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and prisons administration is therefore, the responsibility of State Governments. No information regarding high profile criminals operating from inside the prisons is available with the Central Government except about recovery of a cell phone from a prisoner of Tihar Jail in May, 2000. On enquiry it was found that one constable of Tamil Nadu Special Police had supplied a cell phone to a prisoner. The said constable was dismissed from service by the commandant, Tamilnadu Special Police, VII Bn. subsequently.A number of steps have been taken to prevent smuggling of prohibited items including cell phones inside the Tihar Prisons, increased vigilance inside the wards and barracks, additional checking and frisking points at the entrance, frequent surprise searches by senior officers and use of a cell phone detector by the guarding staff inside high security wards.